GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:879
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016
Development of Barren Land
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of barren land in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has implemented any scheme for the conversion of barren land into cultivable land and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of barren land converted into cultivable land under the said scheme during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a): As per the information received from Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the State /UT-wise details of barren and unculturable land are given at Annexure .

(b) and (c): There is no scheme/ programme exclusively to convert barren land into cultivable land. However, the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development had been implementing an area development programme namely the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 2009-10 for development of rainfed/degraded areas including wastelands in the country. The major activities taken up under IWMP inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons, etc. So far 8214 projects covering an area of 39.07 million ha have been sanctioned and an amount of Rs 12520.03 crore has been released as Central Share to the States till 2015-16 since inception. The IWMP has been converted as the Watershed Development Component of the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' (PMKSY) from 2015-16. As per the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects-2008 (Revised Edition-2011), the period for completing PMKSY (WDC) projects is between 4-7 years. These projects are in different stages of implementation.

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